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AUTHOR	Cyprian, Judy
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ABSTRACT

Youth in foster care are at particular risk for engaging in early sexual behavior due to frequent moves that have disrupted trusting relationships and schooling, and sometimes because of histories of sexual abuse. This manual was developed by experts in the field of sexuality education for use primarily by foster parents with children in their custody. Chapter 1, "Discussing Sexuality with Young People," discusses the basics of talking about sexuality with children. Chapters 2 through 5 examine the sexual development, interests, and concerns typical of specific age groups and ways to address these issues with children. These chapters are: (2) "Birth-Age 5"; (3) "Ages 6-8"; (4) "Ages 9-13"; and (5) "Ages 14-18." Appendix A is a glossary on human sexuality, arranged according to topics. Appendix B describes different forms of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), how they are contracted, their symptoms, treatments, and the risks of ignoring them. Appendix C includes a list of telephone numbers of organizations that can provide information and other assistance on various matters of sexuality. Appendix D is a bibliography of resources for children, parents, and professionals on sexuality, reproduction, sexual abuse, STIs, adoption, and related topics. (LPP)

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